

during Chapter II of the international stage, with the multiple dependencies being removed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend claim 3 as follows:

--3. (Amended) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~and 2~~, further comprising a step of performing scanning one line of the image data to provide N pixels (N being an integer greater than or equal to 1) that follows an image area having a prescribed area number that has just terminated as semi-image areas of an adjacent image area.--

Amend claim 4 as follows:

--4. (Amended) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~and 2~~, further comprising a step of performing scanning one line of the image data to provide N pixels (N being an integer greater than or equal to 1) that follows an image area having the same area number that has just terminated as semi-image areas of an image area that is adjacent from right above when the image area having a prescribed area number terminated at the pixel that is located right above on immediately preceding line.--

Amend claim 5 as follows:

--5. (Amended) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according ~~any one of claims~~ claim 3 ~~and 4~~, further comprising a step of scanning the

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line buffer in a reverse direction and modifying the different area numbers to the common area number when consecutive pixels belong to respective image areas and semi-image areas but have different area numbers after the scanning of the one line has completed.--